

City of North Saint Paul
March 4, 2025
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Nordby
Council Member Woods
Council Member McKenzie
Council Member Schweer
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Daniel Winek, City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. HGA Park Planning Final Report

Trig Hanson, land architect with HGA, summarized the final report. He reviewed the conceptual plans for the Downtown Open Space, Third Street North Open Space, and the McKnight Sports Complex.

Mr. Hanson stated the process involved the discovery of stakeholders within the city, rigorous engagement events, and meetings that included face-to-face interactions and discussions. The process did not prioritize the three parks but did provide an opportunity to create designs for each of the three parks. Mr. Hanson also noted HGA did not develop a budget but completed a cost estimate based on the current market value.

Mr. Hanson provided sample site designs for each park and noted the importance of resident feedback and guidance on necessary features for each park.

Mr. Hanson described some of the features as a nature-based playground, dog park, skateboard and rollerblade park, outdoor space for kids aged 9-15, a community garden, and the renovation of McKnight fields.

City Council held a detailed conversation on different features and prioritized options for the McKnight Sports Complex plan, including an improved parking lot, removal of tennis courts, roller blade and skate park, baseball, soccer, softball fields, and ADA-compliant trails and equipment.

Council Member Schweer reiterated the park's individual needs.

Council Member McKenzie suggested a potential dome field noting it could be used year-round. Park and Recreation Commission Chair Sarah Zahradka recommended the approval of these conceptual plans in order to begin moving forward with a phased approach.

Mayor Monge inquired about field drainage. Mr. Hanson noted artificial fields drain two to three feet below the surface.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2025-027 consisting of:

- A. February 18, 2025 workshop and regular meeting minutes
- B. General Claims \$685,621.73
- C. HRA Claims \$16,668.73
- D. North St. Paul Participation in Minnesota's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Grant Program
- E. New Appointment to the Arts & Culture Commission ***Resolution No. 2025-028***
- F. Purchase Holophane Decorative Lighting
- G. 2025 Rate Table Solar Above 40kw
- H. Electric – Declare Surplus Items

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl expressed his concern regarding the requirement to sign in to Google in order to receive information about the community center.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Proposal to Adopt a Street Reconstruction Plan and the Intent to Issue General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and stated documents are attached with the 2025 and 2027 plans as it relates to street projects.

Mayor Monge opened the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Winek noted the issuance of bonds for seven million dollars.

Mayor Monge closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution 2025-029, Approving the Street Reconstruction Plan and the Issuance of General Obligations Street Reconstruction Bonds.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Budget Amendments for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budgets

Mr. Winek presented this item and noted this is a clean-up item for 2024 with all amendments attached.

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025-030, Amending the 2024 Budgets.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle stated the plan for the Community Center presented by Council Member Nordby would not work without having to go back to the legislature.

Mr. Frandle noted the retirement of Northeast Metro 916 Construction Occupation Careers Program leader, Tom Spehn. He stated the Electric Department continues inspections and the Community Development Department is busy with summer planning. The Police Department has made an offer to fill the Investigator position and hoping for a start date mid-April. The Public Works Department provided the City with updates on the student-built house, summer employment, and the continual Emerald Ash Borer tree removal.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Nordby noted the Planning Commission meeting of March 6th was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

Council Member Woods stated the Arts and Culture Commission approved a new member and the next meeting is tomorrow night.

Council Member McKenzie noted the EDA will meet March 11, 2025.

Council Member Schweer recommended putting time and effort into the City's parks and next meeting is March 24, 2025.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Monge noted the great turnout and success of the event honoring firefighters for their bravery and heroism.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member McKenzie, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk